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The Journal of the Strange & Unusual Phenomena Research Association
ISSUE #19
WE HAVE RETURNED!
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comments!
Mark R. Gardner
s and opinions in this issue of Elsewhen,
d, are those of the author and are not
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sociation.
W THIS ISSUE:
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[AD] 307-0173, U.S.A. ©1994, 1995 by
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SPECTRAL &
GHOST SHIPS.
AN INTRODUCTION TO TWO
MARITIME MYSTERIES
by Mark Gardner
Ever since people first went to sea they have seen some strange and unusual things beyond their shores. We automatically think of mysterious things like mermaids or sea monsters, of course, but there are two other types of maritime mysteries which are probably just as ancient and well known to sailors- ghost ships, ships found sailing without crews on board, and spectral ships, phantom ships which appear and disappear into the night.
Mysteries of the sea have always fascinated us and those vast bodies of water out there have held a romantic fixation to many cultures. As sailors moved farther and farther away from the sight of land, their natural fears of the unknown were mixed with superstition and mythology. It was easy to assume that a drifting ship's capable crew could not have been taken easily, so a complete absence of bodies or survivors, except for a starving cat or dog, must have been supernatural in the least. Let's take a look at a couple of well-known examples:
The Flying
Dutchman
Among the most famous of the phantom ships is the legendary Flying Dutchman. This sailing ship, feared by most mariners as an omen of disaster, supposedly appears during stormy weather off the Cape of Good Hope, at Africa's southern tip. According to one version of the legend, Vanderdecken, the captain of the Flying Dutchman, swore during a storm that he would round the cape even if he had to sail straight into the wind. Because of this oath, Vanderdecken was condemned to sail forever against just such an adverse wind.
The Flying Dutchman legend has often been used

in literature. It also served as the basis for Richard Wagner's opera "The Flying Dutchman".
Phantoms, whether observed on land or at sea, can often be explained as optical illusions. Mariners are familiar with the sight of ships sailing through the sky above the horizon-a simple mirage caused by the refraction of light rays. The Flying Dutchman legend may have originated in the account of a superstitious seaman who saw such a mirage but did not understand its nature.
The Mary Celeste
The American brig Mary Celeste, found abandoned in the mid-Atlantic in 1872, is one of the best known of the ghost ships. On December 4 of that year, about 400 miles from the coast of Portugal, a lookout on the English brig Dei Gratia sighted another brig bearing down on her. The sails on the approaching ship were not fully set; there was an ominous look about her.
It was the Mary Celeste, which had left New

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York Harbor with a cargo of alcohol on November 7, eight days ahead of the Dei Gratia. The captain of the Dei Gratia hailed the spooky ship, but there was no answer. He had a boat lowered and sent out men to investigate.
A short time later the boarding crew returned, pale and shaken. Not a soul, living or dead, had been found aboard the Mary Celeste, nor was there any clue to what might have happened. The logbook was present. But the ship's papers and the captain's chronometer, sextant, and navigation books were gone. There was plenty of food and water, and there was no sign of violence. The brig's longboat was missing, however. It was evident that the ship had been abandoned quickly, for pipes, tobacco, and the crew's oilskins were still aboard.
Ten persons had passed into oblivion-Capt. Benjamin Briggs, his wife and two-year-old daughter, and a crew of seven. Numerous theories have been advanced to explain their disappearance. It has been suggested that Briggs, fearing his cargo of alcohol might explode, ordered everyone into the longboat. Tied to the Mary Celeste by a rope, the longboat may have become separated from it in heavy seas. No one will ever know. The fate of the passengers aboard the Mary Celeste remains one of the most baffling in the history of the sea.

The Waratah and the Cyclops goes

When disaster strikes a ship at sea and she to the bottom, there is usu some clue to her fate-a bit of debris or perhaps a floating life jacket. (Several years after her sinking, a life jacket from the Lusitania was found floating beside a wharf at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-thousands of miles from where the ship went down in 1915.) But in the case of the British passenger freighter Waratah and that of the United States Navy collier Cyclops, no clues have ever been brought forward.

The 16,800-ton Waratah, only a year old, was last sighted off the coast of South Africa on July 27, 1909. Although thought of as a good ship by many, the ship had been described by some as top-heavy. Herein may lie the explanation for her disappearance: she may have "tumed turtle" in heavy seas. With her vanished 211 persons.

Equally mystifying is the disappearance of the Cyclops, a 19,000-ton ship with 309 persons aboard. She was last heard from in March 1918 while en route to Baltimore, Maryland, from the island of Barbados in the West Indies. Since no logical explanation has ever been offered for her disappearance, the U.S. Navy file on the Cyclops has never been closed. Some have suggested she struck a mine or was torpedoed, others that her cargo shifted. But where is the wreckage?

BOOK REVIEW

UFOs: A Manual for the Millennium
by Phil Cousineau
HarperCollins West, San Francisco, CA.
ISBN 0-06-258638-6. 1995.
[AD] $5.99, Paperback, 260 pp., Illustrations.

One of the great things about being the editor of a publication like this is the occasional receipt of free books to review. About half these books are ones you might not have bought yourself, others, like the one I review here, are welcomed and enjoyed.

This book, also published in other markets as UFO Secrets Revealed, is an introduction to the whole scope of the UFO phenomenon. It takes you on an excursion from the early sightings, to the flaps,

contactees, abductees, crop circles, and the
continuing back and forth argument about the
Roswell "crash". Although it mostly leans to the
believer camp, it also mentions some of the skeptic
camp's ideas and personalities.
the
The book is graphically attractive and includes a
lot of illustrations throughout. Once picked up,
reader quickly finds a couple of hours have passed!
One of the most useful features of this book is
the listing of additional resources at the end of each
chapter. And towards the end of the book are
listings of organizations and even online addresses.
I even found a couple of new items of use to us!
I recommend this book for anyone with an
interest in the UFO phenomenon. It serves as a great
introduction to the subject and enough additional
material is referenced to keep you busy for some
time to come. Add it to your bookshelf!
Mark Gardner
Elsewhen #19
UFO-RELATED MILITARY DOCUMENTS
AIR FORCE INFORMATION POLICY LETTER
FOR COMMANDERS
FROM OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
Vol. XIV, No. 12
Washington, D. C., 15 August 1960
AIR FORCE MEMBERS MUST KEEP THEMSELVES INFORMED about all kinds of weapon
systems in the U.S. arsenal. In order to fulfill our responsibility to the
American people we must understand and be able to explain the capabilities of the
-- even the newest -- is the complete answer to
various systems. No weapon system
our defense problems. For this belief to gain currency would be harmful, and
this fact has been specifically recognized by Navy and Air Force leaders.
Admiral Burke and General White have commented in this respect about the Polaris.
Navy CNO, Adm. Arleigh Burke told a Senate subcommittee on 1961 DOD
appropriations: "We have always contended in the Navy never to rely upon a single
weapon system even a weapon system as good as Polaris, because that would mean
that the enemy could concentrate on the countermeasures for that single weapon
system.... As you know, the Navy's mission is control of the seas, and now and for
the foreseeable future the means with which to accomplish this mission are
surface ships, submarines, and aircraft. The carrier is simply one of our tools,
but the most important one we have."
And General White told a House subcommittee; "I am in favor of the Polaris
weapon system. I think that it will contribute significantly to our overall
retaliatory capability; while I would equally stress that it is not the whole
answer by any means. It is one of several systems which promise to be effective
and will complicate the enemy's defenses.
AF KEEPING WATCHFUL EYE ON AEROSPACE. Among the Air Force's many major
contributions to the Nation's scientific progress and military security is its
operation of the National Space Surveillance Control Center at Laurence G.
Hanscom Field, Bedford, Mass.

The Control Center catalogues for defense surveillance purposes all artificial satellites launched by this country or other nations. It collects data on these vehicles, computes their motions, and distributes this information to a large number of government, military and scientific agencies. It provides around-the-clock coverage.

Dedicated last February, the Control Center is located on the grounds of the Air Force Command and Control Development Division of Air Research and Development Command. The Geophysics Research Directorate, working under the Air Force Cambridge Research Center at Hanscom Field, operated this tracking activity as "Project Space Track" from November 1957 until the activity came

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under the National Space Surveillance Control Center in 1960.

Over 100 sensor stations provide data for the Control Center. Stations include those of U.S. Government agencies, cooperating foreign and domestic observatories, and various visual observing teams. A control room has a luminous map of the world upon which selected satellite positions can be displayed in the form of moving spots of light.

The Control Center maintains a computer "catalogue" of all space vehicles in orbit, arranged so the position of all known satellites can be determined for any particular instant. The catalogue also keeps track of orbiting booster rockets, rocket shells, or other launch components accompanying a satellite.

Sightings are communicated to this catalogue, and the computer automatically compares the reports with data on known space vehicles for identification. The new information is then used either to improve the satellite's orbit formula or to establish an equation for the new vehicle.

There is a relationship between the Air Force's interest in space surveillance and its continuous surveillance of the atmosphere near Earth for "UFO's". As the Service with the primary unidentified flying objects responsibility of providing forces for aerospace defense of the United States, the Air Force has been, since 1947, studying and analyzing reported sightings of UFO's, including astronomical objects.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Head of the Department of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory at Northwestern University, is the Chief Scientific Consultant to the Air Force on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

A selected scientific group under the supervision of the Air Force, plus the facilities of the Air Force's Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center, and the entire facilities of the Nation's scientific and technical community, as well as the National Space Surveillance Control Center, keep watch on objects of all kinds in the vast reaches of sky surrounding our planet.

FIVE MORE AEROSPACE TALKS will be distributed soon to information officers, They are: "The Air Force in Space"; "Air Force Contributions to Science"; "What Makes an Aerospace Force?" (mission of USAF; "How the Air Force Stretches Your Dollar) and "Training Men for the Aerospace Force."

/s/ Arlo H. Luehman
ARLO H. LUEHMAN
Major General, USAF
Director of Information

The above is an extract from the "Air Force Information Policy Letter" cited by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe (USMC Ret.) in his famous book Aliens from Space: The Real Story of Unidentified Flying Objects, 1973,
Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York, New York.

TWENTY-THREE FEET
OF MYSTERY
by Bufo Calvin

Little scratchy pictures on a celluloid strip. As they roll past the light on the projector, they roll through our minds. To some, it is obvious: this movie, which depicts a hairy monster, is a fake. It is an attractive conclusion, elegant in its simplicity. "It can't be, so it isn't." Case closed.

It's a logical opinion to hold. If it's right, you're right. You haven't wasted a lot of time on something that, well, looked silly to begin with. If it's wrong, all you've done is call a couple of guys liars. Even if the film is genuine, the odds look pretty good that it's not You going to be proved accurate in your lifetime. might as well side with the vast majority of people out there and shrug it off.

Be careful, though: walk away quickly. Turn on a movie or pick up a book. Don't let your mind linger too long. Otherwise, awkward questions might start to sneak in...

For instance, if it is a fake, how was it done? Simple, man in a suit. Whew, that's over with. Quick, what channel is the game on? Er...actually, it's a pretty good looking suit. No zipper, no seams. Oh, no big deal...we've all seen suits that looked that good in the movies. Of course, this was in 1967. And even "Harry", in HARRY AND THE HENDERSONS, looked a bit mechanical. When the Disney folks looked at the film back then, they said were impressed and would have found it hard to duplicate. I'm sure with enough money and the right equipment, it could have been done.

So, the guy who made the movie was a Hollywood special effects technician, right? No? An ex-rodeo rider? Ah...well, he could have been just the front man, for, um, a secret studio effects team that was willing to spend big money to create a hoax and then never take the credit for it.

Well, anyway, if it wasn't a human, it would look more different, right? It just looks like a person. Okay, the shoulders are kind of wide. Actually, real wide. Let's see: the stats come out to the shoulders being, oh, about 35% the height of the thing. Let me look it up: human shoulder width is, at the maximum, about 30%. But that would be in big guys, right? Oh,

actually, the widest width is in short...how do they put it here?
"...men of extreme lateral build, like Eskimos..." Hm...and the average is about 25%. Padding, right? Sure, you could just pad the shoulders out. Of course, the guy would still have to stick his arms out. He wouldn't be able to do it at the shoulder if they were much wider than his. Maybe he could kind of make like a scarecrow: stick his arms straight out the frame even with his shoulders, and then bend his arms at the elbows. Give him awfully short arms, though. And the arms are long. Maybe he could hold some sort of extensions, like stilts? Yeah, with fake hands attached to the ends! Of course, they do bend, and...er...I can see that the fingers flex.
Look, all this stuff is giving me a headache. It's a fake, ok? That's easier.
*Shoulder width analysis taken from BIG FOOTPRINTS by Washington State University Professor of Anthropology Grover Krantz, a physical anthropologist. ISBN 1-55566-099-1.

PUBLICATION REVIEW

AURA-Z
Vol. 2, No. I
Alexander Avshalumov, Editor
[AD] P.O. Box 224,
Moscow, 117463 RUSSIA

This Russian publication, subtitled "An illustrated quarterly journal of ufological and paranormal phenomena", is a fascinating slick paper magazine which we receive with great pleasure each time. SUPRA receives the English language edition, although French, Spanish and Russian language versions are also available.

You The articles which have appeared previously are typical for Russian sources of this type, although well-written and, at times, very interesting. need to see for yourself what I mean the Russian perspective on UFOs and unusual phenomena is not the same as what we are used to in the West.

In the latest issue, some of the articles are "Star Wars Over Pyatigorsk?!", "Light Effects and UFOs", "The Frenzied Monk", "Poltergeist at a Cosmonaut's Home", and "A Key to Other Worlds.

Due to the exchange rate, subscription is - about $36 a year. But most serious expensive readers will find it worth the price. Be sure to send a couple of international reply coupons, available at your post office, with any correspondence. I highly recommend Aura-Z to all our readers.

Carrie Jo
Elsewhen #19
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Weirdness in the West
UFO INFO:
by Bufo Calvin
Although the sightings in Michigan (including something tracked by the National Weather Service) may have grabbed the headlines recently, Western skies continue to be set aglow by something other than the setting sun. For instance, a thing which looked like a small luminescent cloud was seen in Manteca in early March. At about the same time, "strange lights" were seen in the sky in Wyoming.
Coloradans have continued to make observations, some in connection with a NORAD report of a significant heat source back in January. Some specific locations in Colorado with UFO sightings this year are: Rock Creek Canyon; Capulin; and Steamboat Springs. Politically, there has been a big push for the government to release whatever information it might have about the so-called "Roswell Incident". Signatures are being gathered asking for an Executive Order to declassify such information. The GAO is reportedly investigating the alleged 1947 crash and retrieval at the prompting of U.S. Representative Steven Schiff. OPERATION RIGHT TO KNOW targeted Senator Barbara Boxer's office for a demonstration on May 1st. Supposedly, this is because she failed to respond to letters asking her to obtain UFO related information (her office claims not to have received any such letters). Interestingly, it was reported last year that when an employee of hers ran afoul of the police for carrying a firearm, he supposedly claimed to be working for the CIA investigating UFO sightings...
THE BIGFOOT BEAT:
Unsolved Mysteries recently did a report on Peter Byme's research. He is the director of The Bigfoot Research Project. Back in 1975, his book The Search for Bigfoot was published. In it he said, "With enough money to start a full-bodied search and investigation, I would predict a find, possibly within two years, and certainly within five."
Almost twenty years later, his search has become funded and is in full-swing (he had

withdrawn from the field in 1979). The Project can be reached at 1-800-BIGFOOT.

A Bigfoot sighting, involving apparently independent witnesses, took place near Quincy, California in early February.

OTHER STUFF:

A new monster has been spotted (in April, although not April 1st) in the Mt. Rainier area in Washington State. It sounds rather like a bigfoot: 9 feet tall, bipedal, hairy, except for one important difference. It has wings. In fact, it was seen to both land and take-off (by the one 18-year old witness). It has been named "Batsquatch". It sounds somewhat like the Mothman sightings from West Virginia close to 30 years ago, although there are significant differences...A mysterious jaw found in the Clear Lake area (site of a lot of strange activity in the past year, including UFOs and the catch of an poodle-faced, whale-tailed fish) has been identified as that of a carp...3 autopsies later, we still don't know what happened to Gloria Ramirez. You may remember that strange fumes reportedly came out of her body and knocked emergency room workers unconscious. The family suggests that there may have been a coverup of some other source of the toxic fumes... In another follow-up, the substance causing the green rain in San Francisco was identified as a de-icing fluid from an aircraft, according to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists... Animal mutilations continue, including a steer from Clark City, Nevada on February 24th. It was reported that apparently high-heat may have been used in at least one cut... Recently published books include: Abduction by Dr. John Mack; The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell by Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt (their second on the incident); Bigfoot at Bluff Creek by Danny Perez, Watch the Skies: A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth by Peebles; Glimpses of Other Realities by Linda Moulton Howe; and many others...

Remember, it's a weird world out there!

Editor's Note: This is the fourth of this series of updates Bufo circulates amongst friends and associates. This Is the second one to appear here.

Elsewhen #19

BOOK REVIEW

The National Directory of Haunted Places
by Dennis William Hauck
Athanor Press, Sacramento, CA. ISBN 0-9637914-1-9.
1994. $24.95, 8½ x 11, 406 pp., 100 photos.

It can be ordered directly from the publisher [AD] at 1-800-424-5078.

Ever wonder what state is the most haunted? Virginia has more ghosts per capita, but California has the largest number of cases under investigation. How do I know? I took a quick tally in The National Directory of Haunted Places. This unusual guidebook chronicles over 2,500 supernatural sites. Included are hotels, inns, theaters, restaurants, and other businesses, as well as houses, schools, churches, parks, and campgrounds. All are believed to be actual haunted places, where strange and unexplainable events have been reported. These are real places. with addresses, phone numbers, and travel directions.

The author's definition of a haunted place goes against the grain of many parapsychologists, who spend their time separating such phenomena into increasingly narrow categories. For Hauck, a place is haunted if events occur there that are beyond our ability to explain. Whether that place is haunted by ghosts, flying saucers, angels, demons, or some other mysterious presence is only a matter of adjusting parameters. Such a definition includes not only haunted buildings but also mythical sites, sacred landmarks, creature sightings, and UFO landings. "As individually unique as these phenomena occur," says the author, "they all have two things in common. Hauntings occur at specific locations, and they are outside our everyday experience."

Not only can you find the nearest haunted inn or restaurant in this book, but you can also discover where the latest UFO encounters are taking place. Or perhaps you're more cautious and just want to know if that house you are thinking of buying has a history of paranormal activity. Look it up in the directory. A few states have passed laws requiring the divulgence of such information, but some homeowners are reluctant to admit their house is possessed by spirits. No matter what you are looking for, every entry is referenced to a comprehensive bibliography that lists sources for further information.

A typical listing is one for an old tavern in Ashland, Massachusetts:

John Stone's Inn The sign over the entrance to this 162-year-old pub offers "spirits, food and lodging," but it is not

room. until you see Captain John Stone's picture staring down from over the bar, that you get a feeling for the kind of spirits about which they are talking. Daniel Webster gave speeches here, and

there are secret rooms that served as hiding places for runaway slaves, but the inn's greatest claim to fame are the ghosts walking its halls. The apparition of a 10-year-old girl is often reported staring out a window in a storeroom near the kitchen, and an invisible intruder likes to put his hands around the necks of customers in the dining Near an ice machine in the cellar, several employees have felt an unseen presence tapping them on the shoulder or holding their hands under the ice when they try to fill buckets. Other manifestations include glasses flying across the dining room, cups falling off of shelves for no reason, and mysterious $10 bills materializing in a tip jar. In 1984, investigators held two televised seances in an upstairs lounge in front of 150 witnesses. They claimed to have contacted the spirits of the little girl, a woman innkeeper, and yes, old Captain Stone himself. (In Middlesex County, take the Framingham exit off Hwy 90 and follow Hwy 135 for 5 miles west to Ashland. John Stone's Inn, 179 Main Street, Ashland, MA, 01721. [AD] Phone: 508-881-1778.)232,237

Haunted Places is the first national compendium of supernatural locations ever published. There are chapters for all 50 states. But even if you never leave your armchair, this book has a lot to teach about our haunted heritage and the spiritual dimension that lies just below the surface of our daily lives.

From the ghosts of our Founding Fathers to the extraterrestrial intelligences, this book reveals all. Ever wonder if ghosts have emotions? Poltergeist cases suggest that some apparitions might be projections of our own emotions. Do ghosts keep their sexual preferences? Indeed they do. Look up the lesbian ghost in Carson City, Nevada, or the middle-aged man who haunts the showers at the YMCA in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Oh, and don't forget the spectral flasher who appears in the lobby of the inn at Sutter Creek, California.

Reviewed by Bruce Schaffenberger

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TO DATE ELSEWHEN BACK ISSUE ARTICLE DIRECTORY

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"Hypnotism And False Memories: The Truth Behind The Allen Abduction Phenomenon?"; Sweating Statues and Invisible Ships; "New U.S. Stealth Aircraft Rumored"; Publication Reviews; Celebrity Psychics And the Great New Age Leg Pull;The Evidence For Abductions; Weirdness In The West; Fortean Research On A Budget; "Say It's Not So, Nessie..."
UFO-RELATED MILITARY DOCUMENTS
PRNC Instruction 3820.1
From:
To:
Subj:
Ref:
HEADQUARTERS
Potomac River Naval Station
Washington, D. C.
PRNC 3820.1
Code 03

23 July 1954
Commandant, Potomac River Naval Command
Distribution List 2
Unidentified Flying Objects; reporting of
(a) OpNav Notice 3820 of 26 Sept 1952
(b) JANAP 146 (c)
(c) Air Force letter 200-5 of 29 Apr 1952 (enclosure) (1) to ref (a)
(d) ComEast Sea from Instruction 3820.2
1. PURPOSE: to provide guidance for procedures to be followed for reporting unidentified flying objects.
2. Definition: unidentified flying objects as used in this instruction relate to any airborne object which by performance, aerodynamic characteristics, or unusal features does not conform to any presently known aircraft or missile.
3. Background: Reference (a) states that the U.S. Air Force has the primary responsibility for collection of subject information and has requested the cooperation of all Naval activities in reporting such information.
addressees are requested to report any data on unidentified flying
4. (a)
objects without delay by message in multiple address to:
ACTION: (a) Director of intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington, D.C.
(b) Air Technical Intelligence center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio-
ATTN: ATLAA-20.
INFO:
(c) Commander, Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colorado
(d) Commander, Eastern Air Defense Force, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N. Y.
(e) Director of Naval Intelligence, Navy Department, Washington D. C.
(f) Commander Eastern Sea Frontier, 90 Church Street, New York, N. Y.
(g) Commandant, Potomac River Naval Command, U.S. Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D. C.
b. The symbol FLYOBRPT (flying object report) will appear at the beginning of the text messages to facilitate identification.
c. reports will include, insofar as possible:
(1)
(2)
a brief description of the objects; shape, size, color, number, formation if more than one, aerodynamic features, trail or exhaust, propulsion system, speed, sound, maneuvers, manner of disappearance, and other pertinent or unusal features.
time of sighting in 24 hour clock zonal time, and length of time observed.
10
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(3)
manner of observation; visual or electronic, from air (give speed, altitude and type of aircraft), or surface. Any type of optical or electronic equipment used should be described.

(4) location of observer during sighting, giving exact latitude and longitude as closely as feasible, and/or reference to a known landmark. Location of object(s) with respect to observer, giving distance, direction, and altitude.
(5) Identifying information of observer(s) and witness(es), estimate of reliability and experience, and any factors bearing on estimated
(6)
reliability of the sighting.
Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sighting(s).
(7) Any activity or condition, meteorological or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.
(8) Existence of any physical evidence such as fragments, photographs and the like, of the sighting (s).
(9)
Interception or identification action taken. (Such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives).
(10) Location of any air traffic in the general area at the time of the sighting(s).
d. It should be noted that the above instructions are separate from those required for reporting normal surface and air sightings prescribed by reference (b) and CINCLANTFLT instructions concerning same.
E. Addressees are requested to give theses instructions wide dissemination within their commands.
ELSEWHENS HAPPEN!
BY KEITH L. PARTAIN
A short "phenomena note" here, folks. In Science News, July 2, 1994, pg. 6, we read "Faster-than-light time tunnel for photons." It seems that when some photons strike a mirror in this experiment they "tunnel" through the obstruction (not unlike teleportation), their wave-packet is reshaped and they arrive at the detector before other photons emitted at the same time! That is, by special relativity, time-travel. If one exceeds c, the speed of light in vacuo, one goes back in time.
The time-
T.B. HILL [Rear Admiral, USN]
V. HAVARD, Jr. [CAPTAIN, USN]
Chief of Staff
traveling photons averaged velocities of 1.7 c. The investigator, one Raymond Y. Chiao, goes through enormous semantic and verbal contortions to announce that causality was not violated. Excuse me, sir, but if the time-traveling photon got to the detector first, then it is an event - an empirical event.
Besides, as early as 1947, the famous Feynmann reported that quantum electro-dynamics required time-traveling electrons and photons. He received the Nobel Prize. Bohm's revised quantum mechanics requires nonlocality

in space and time. So
Elsewhens happen!
what else is new?
"Many poets, and all mystic and occult writers, in all ages and countries, have declared that behind the visible are chains on chains of conscious beings, who are not of heaven but of the earth, who have no inherent form but change according to their whim, or the mind that sees them."
W.B. Yeats, Irish Fairy and Folk-Tales (1902)
A Mobile, Recurring Poltergeist
Associated With a Creek in Tulsa,
Oklahoma
Overview.
by
Keith I. Partain, M.Sc.
Mingo Creek runs through part of southeastern Tulsa County, and has a history of flooding problems. That appears to be the only prosaic facts about it. For nearly thirteen years now I have been receiving bizarre reports from people living near the creek and its branches. After much study I uncovered an equally bizarre pattern possibly underlying the recurrence of the reports.
Additionally, I happened upon a historical precedent to this case.
In mid-593 BCE, the Hebrew prophet Ezekiel was swept up by an amber cloud alongside the "River Chebar," a branch of the Euphrates River which also ran through Babylon some miles north of the event. Through the eyes of a hypothetical Martian anthropologist we will phenomenologically examine briefly Ezekiel's report, shorn of its religious symbolism. Ezekiel was subjected to various outré visions and was deposited back at Chebar where he sat dazed for a week. Jacques Vallee, the astro-physicist and computer scientist, has asserted in various sources' that Ezekiel had an encounter with a paranormal force erroneously associated with extraterrestrials but paranormal nonetheless. Further study of Chebar reveals "river" to be poetic license: it was a canal, or a creek. Ezekiel's account begins in Ezekiel, Chapter One; I recommend the King James Translation.
2,500 years later I encountered another creek phenomenon. To be sure it didn't create a religious phenomenon like Judaism (as virtually all scholars agree Ezekiel's experience did), but it is fascinating nonetheless. Ezekiel experienced recurrences of his and this has been found along that
experience
Tulsa, Oklahoma creek.

Cases of the Mingo Creek RSPK Phenomenon.
Case A'.
It may seem strange to note my first case as a "prime," but what was reported to me in 1981 had a predecessor in 1979 that was independently investigated by a colleague, so no contamination of the data set took place. The subjects of Case A (1979) and Case A' (1981) never met nor compared notes. They lived in the now condemned (as of 1994²) Briar Village apartments at 32nd and South Mingo. The creek was only yards away.
As a
Case A' began very strangely for me.
psi phenomena I keep careful records of
student of
my personal experiences. On the summer solstice of 1981 June 22nd - I felt a strangely malevolent presence enter my room. The moon was five days past full and Mercury was in inferior conjunction to the sun. (Data suggests inferior conjunctions of Mercury and/or Venus where the planets are between our planet and the sun can block the solar wind, encouraging quieter geomagnetic conditions.) A few days later, an acquaintance, "Brian", who did not know anomalistics (the study of unusual phenomena) was my major avocation, sought me out for help. About the time I had been visited, strange presences had visited him his apartment.
About one synodical month later, the same malevolent presence visited me. I had scrupulously avoided telling Brian what had happened to me. Five days later Brian sought me out and he was in a panic. Again, near the time of my second visitation (unknown to him) the menacing presences had returned to frighten him!
We spent the next few weeks studying the phenomenon, which grew in intensity, only to abruptly fade in September 1981. My only other psi impression was to have a claw reach for my right arm as I sat deep in meditation on July 29, 1981. The only real RSPK (Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis) Brian actually experienced was an electric shock and feelings of coldness. Mostly he felt malevolent presences and saw faces. At first the occurrences were weekly, but by the start of September they were nightly. Sadly, his wife miscarried a week after the phenomena ceased. But Brian felt
this was not the most disturbing data

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the phenomenon emanated due south of his bedroom.
During this, by a most disturbing synchronicity,
a local colleague of Vallee's had learned of Tom and
Lynn (surname never revealed to KLP) via one of
In 1979 a "Satanic presence"
her daughters.
(numerous apparitions, deaths of pets and plants) had
driven them from Briar Village. An "exorcism" had
proved futile. I was able to learn the month
and the apartment number. I told
November
"Brian" nothing.
Brian had shakily and dramatically pointed south
--this was during a discussion where the memory
of
a recent visitation was the strongest; when I walked
due south I came to #136 - Tom and Lynn's old
apartment.
November 1979 was the date of a Mercury
inferior conjunction. Since I marked June 22, 1981
as the official beginning of Case A', I was able to
place Case A as beginning 5 synodical years (of
115.878 days each) of Mercury before Case A'.
Case B.
In 1987 I got wind of another Mingo Creek case,
already in progress. In November 1986 I had a
disturbing sensation from the direction of Mingo
Creek, but no data. By the time I talked to "Jan" all
of the phenomena had ceased. Brian (Case A') had
psychologically suffered due to his disbelief in psi
phenomena; Jan was a believer.
She reported numerous PK events such as
appliances spontaneously turning on and, also,
mysterious disappearances. She reported apparitions.
The phenomena predominantly took place late
October 1986 through February 1987. I did not meet
her until March 1987. In July 1987, she reported a
painful sequel to the event: a monstrous apparition
(see Figure 1) the "size of a room" appeared in her
trailer and presumably "sucked out" her vital
energies, necessitating a trip to the emergency room.
The creature was multi-tentacled and cyclopean with
five ocelli arranged in a "horseshoe" configuration
about the main eye; it was an iridescent green. (She
said it had come "from the north.")
This occurred at about 44th Street South and
Highway 169 in Rockwood Village; Mingo Creek

was only yards away. Hicks Park was about a half-mile north. Mercury had
conjunction about five days earlier.
gone into inferior
In January 1988 I was forced to avoid Jan. She was developing a transference fixation onto me. As that happened, she dreamed of a bizarre white blob: it was standing in a doorway and it had two "head"; it was not unlike a melting snowman with evaginations out of what region would answer for a novitiate nun headgear. When she said it was "standing between us," I disregarded it as part of her fixation. A few years later the "nun-like" appearance would have an important meaning for me
Figure 1. The malevolent, vampiric cyclopean octopoid (iridescent green) of July 10, 1987. Author's interpretation of Case B's report.
Case C.
At one of Tulsa's paranormal subculture groups I met "Alyssa." This was in the spring of 1993. She had toyed with contacting me in 1992. At the pet grooming shop she had leased she reported apparitions and some small degree of RSPK. She asserted the "haunting" was due to a suicide in the shop. I responded that the modus operandi of the sentience was both aggressive and "diabolic"; assuming a suicide "hung around" (and I was able to confirm his demise with a bit of detective work), it would be depressed, not aggressive. After waiting a bit for Alyssa to recall, she remembered the apparitions began around April 1992. The location was near 21st Street and 129th
reaches of Mingo Creek due east in the guise of its Tupelo Creek branch. The creek ran an ugly furrow just behind the shop.
the furthest
Since I had completely missed the target interval, I recalled what I had learned from Case A, Case A' and Case B: all had coincided with a Mercury inferior conjunction, and, often it seemed, the waning moon. So, I asked Alyssa if we could set up an overnight vigil during a Mercury I.C. in July 1993. Appropriately it was the dark of the moon.
Since virtually all reports were of something malevolent, I had brought "cold" iron and an ultraviolet projector'; my assumption
was based on
iron having some remarkable properties (besides very dense for its place on the periodic table and it has very stable isotopes. Regarding U-V, this entity appeared not to care for sunlight. A modern von Helsing with just a dash of Egon Spengler, I stood

waiting for the sentience, iron in one fist and a U-V projector in the other. At almost exactly 2 a.m., Alyssa, her friend Jane and I sensed something. (Between 2 and 4 a.m. were Brian's oft-reported times of visitation.) I continued flashing the projector at "it," i.e., where I felt it was; I confess my hackles were raised, but I do not believe it was "power of suggestion" - it felt as it had 12 years before, in 1981. At about 2:30 a.m. the feeling faded; we witnessed no apparition.

General discussion.

The Hicks Parks "epicenter" is only one hypothetical site for the origin of the disturbance. How I precisely arrived at the coordinates of 100 Avenue South and East 37th are beyond the scope of this article-except to say I have reports of strange psi phenomena for miles along each axis. The gravity anomaly map of Tulsa appears to correlate with none of the data; there is no magnetic anomaly map of Tulsa County.

I also wish to emphatically emphasize Cases A, A', B and C never met: they are scattered in space-time and never compared notes!

Along with the Ezekiel event, other authors have speculated on anomalies associated with streams and creeks'. Research on Tulsa's expansion circa 1969, when Mingo Creek residential areas were at the frontier, netted nothing. The history of that part of Tulsa is virtually a blank page.

An interesting artifact may bar data gathering: an

Only two blocks from the electrical substation.

conjectured epicenter, it might render magnetometer readings useless. Research I have done (as well as the voluminous research of Michael A. Persinger[3]) suggests that psi may work best in the absence of geomagnetic storms. A printout from NOAA gave me quiet geomagnetic activity for the June 22, 1981 psi and the July 10, 1987 octopoid events. Therefore, with a "noisy" (electromagnetically) station nearby, do we have a contradiction in terms? No, we have another blank page. If I were to lair, I'd like an undetectable blind. I am positing a sentient being. What, I don't know.

An angry undine out of Paracelsus? Can't really say. A magnetometer may not work there! (Important to note, too: substation activity does drop late at night.)

One recurrent puzzle harks back to an earlier article'; in it I found a recurring dream cycle of 329.5 days and telepathic data. If one notes the excellent input of Case A', the good input of Case

B and the fuzzy input of Case C, one can leap 5.37 years between each case (392.5 days times 5 is 5.37 years). This cycle, curiously, is out of phase with the 392.5 day cycle by about 79 days, or one-fifth of 392.5 days. Both cycles have lunar components: the waning moon in the case of the creek; the fact that adding a sidereal month to a tropical year nets 392.5 days. (A malevolent white blob recurred in the 392.5 day dream cycle.)

Without accessing the growing feminist/New Age literature on the subject, I ask my reader to note this: unlike the present, ancient matrifocal cultures divided the Goddess, represented by the Moon, into three components: maiden, mother and crone. Divide a synodical month of 29.53 days (from new moon to next new moon) by 3. Note when the presence assailed me on June 22, 1981, two-thirds of the lunar cycle had past.

When the young lady mentioned in the Demon-Girl article was 17 months old, she lived next to the Bell Creek branch of Mingo (the branching was a quarter-mile due north and Hicks Park, a half-mile due east); during that interval, something positively weird happened to the earth's magnetic field-it "jerked". Any pediatrician will tell you that 9-18 months of age is a crucial window for neurological development. I also have reason to believe that 1969 was a year for uncanny psi phenomena - I know, I lived some of it."

I was informed nothing unusual occurred, which does not surprise me. Besides, the dreams of a malevolent white blob attacking me did not begin until 1974. In 1989, when I learned the girl had attended a Catholic university, Jan's nonsense babble about a dream of a white blob with novitiate nun headgear (vide supra, Case B) ceased to be babble. Furthermore, the family had left for Chicago in 1973, only to return around 1979. After they returned, the mother became a practicing Wiccan, who tried to encourage her daughter to study the subject; the girl demurred. (The girl told me in 1989 she was thinking of becoming a Catholic.)

In the Goddess culture data I've studied, Hecate, the White Goddess of Death, the Crone appears in

it is

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the dark of the moon.
divided by three[12].
The matrifocal culture is
Something positively weird lurks in Mingo
Creek. Note the neo-pagan/Wiccan tie to the first
case I studied: the maiden and mother phases had
passed; it was the summer solstice festival. Case B
was near Halloween, and Case C, the vernal equinox.
According to my calculations, the next major case
may begin circa August 1, 1997
holiday of Lammas.
Conclusion.
the pagan
I'm thinking of testing another hypothesis about
that time. If it likes geomagnetic quiet, how would
it react to a superconducting magnet generating a few
thousand gauss (as opposed to the 0.5 gauss of our
natural field)? And does anyone know where I can
get an ultraviolet laser cheap? I may be thinking like
Egon, but I'm not on his budget.
Obviously my concern is not wholly impersonal.
It is as if the sentience is as much studying me as I
am it
NOTES
1. Run, do not walk, to your local bookstore to buy
Jacques Vallee's most erudite, frightening and factual
book, Confrontations (New York: Ballantine, 1990).
Dr. Vallee mentions Ezekiel on Page 178.
2. Tulsa World, May 24, 1994, City/State, pg. 1.
3. "Brian,"
," "Jan" and "Alyssa" are all pseudonyms.
4. Creatures like this are recurrent dream and fantasy
images. That was not its true form; rather, it is quite
protean.
5. Vide Reference 9, infra. A recurring malevolent
white blob can be found there.
6. The use of high-frequency electromagnetic bursts to
deter or destroy malevolent entities can be found in
fiction some decades back; in H.P. Lovecraft's "The
Shunned House," circa, I believe, 1926, a cathode-tube
to eject X-rays is used, and in The Adventures of a
Modern Occultist, Dodd & Mead, 1920, Oliver Bland
employs radium (gamma rays) to the same end.
7. Jim Brandon, The Rebirth of Pan, IL: Firebird, 1983,
pp. 116-7.

8. See various numbers of Perceptual and Motor Skills
for works by Persinger and colleagues on the question
the present would be a good range.
of geophysical variables and psi; from about 1984 to
9. Keith L. Partain, "On the Trail of the Demon-Girl,"

Elsewhen #13, Sept. 1992, pp. 7-8.
10. Stefi Weisburd, "The Earth's Magnetic Hiccup: Something Strange Happened to the Geomagnetic Field in 1969: it jerked," Science News, 10-5-85, pp. 218-20.
11. Keith L. Partain, Out of Psyche, Out of Mind, Tulsa: I.A. Press, 1990.
12. For another perspective on the possible evolution of pagan holidays (as multiples of 13), see also Keith L. Partain, "Back to the Harmonics of Venus," Elsewhen #17, Fall 1993, pp. 11-13. (Lunar oddities are also mentioned.)

INTRODUCTIONS

OPUS

[AD] P.O. Box 273272
Concord, CA 94527 U.S.A.
[AD] Telephone: (510) 689-2666
Internet address: OPUS1@GENIE.GEIS.COM

1. What is OPUS?

OPUS (Organization for Paranormal Understanding & Support) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting experiencers of unusual phenomena and enhancing information exchange about the subject.

2. Why do we need another group? Why not go through one of the existing organizations?

There are many good groups out there already. OPUS hopes to be able to complement them by doing something different. Most existing groups conduct research, issue findings, and generally take a public position on the reality or non-reality of specific cases or phenomena. OPUS, by not doing any of those three things, will be able to serve as a

neutral liason organization both between groups which are operating and between them and the general public (including professionals).

3. What is OPUS going to do?

Two primary functions of OPUS will be to operate a referral network and a database. The former is to enable experiencers to get help without ridicule and the latter (which will be available to researchers, experiencers, help-providers, and the general public) is to encourage the exchange of information.

4. How is this all going to work?

Specific procedures to obtain the goals of matching experiencers with help-givers and being an information clearing-house have not yet been set. Some ideas, in addition to the Referral Network, are: a periodic survey of anomalistic literature; a listing of groups; a listing of publications; a listing of events; a datasearch service; etc. These are difficult choices and the more input we can get

from interested individuals the better OPUS can fill the needs which exist. If you have experience or special skills in any related field (such as: information technology; publishing; accounting; public relations; referral services; etc.) OPUS would be especially interested in any advice and aid you could offer.

5. Where is the money coming from?

OPUS is in the process of forming a non-profit corporation. Until that procedure is completed, it cannot own anything. During this period, all money has come from the Executive Board members. When the organizational phase is complete, we intend to seek donations from interested parties. We will also be raising funds through: sale of publications and merchandise; fund-raisers; and fees (only where it will not conflict with the charitable aims of the organization). We will also welcome donations of needed equipment and rely extensively on volunteers (no Executive Board member is currently receiving any salary). We have already instituted our CHARTER CONTRIBUTOR program (please ask for details), and can accept loans of equipment.

6. Who is in OPUS?

There are ten Executive Board members, each representing a different specialty. They are: Virginia Bennett; Bufo Calvin; Mark Commerford; Kathi Hennesey; Jack Isaacs; Jon Klimo; Gene Lipson; Robert Mitchell; Ralph Steiner, and Les Velez. Brief biographies are available for each of them. In addition, there is an Advisory Board, consisting of nationally-known figures in the field, including: Loyd Auerbach; John Carpenter, Budd Hopkins; Ruth Inge-Heinze; Linda Moulton Howe; David Jacobs; Stanley Krippner, Beverly Rubik; and Yvonne Smith.

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7. How do I join?

Membership in the Friends of OPUS will be available as soon as our incorporation process is completed. Until then, there are several ways in which you can participate. Please contact OPUS for specific information.

8. How much is it going to cost me and what do I get?

The annual fee for membership in the Friends of OPUS has been tentatively set at $25. We expect to be able to offer a subscription to a newsletter and a membership card. We would appreciate your input on what sorts of benefits you might like to see offered.

9. What happens if I don't join up?

The more qualified and competent people we can have working together, the more effective OPUS can be. However, we fully expect that some people will choose not to be involved. We respect that desire for independence.

10. How do I get more information? How do I get my opinions heard?
Information can be obtained by: calling OPUS at (510) [AD] 689-2666; writing us at OPUS, P.O. Box 273272, Concord, CA 94527; or e-mailing us through the Internet at OPUS1@GENIE.GEIS.COM. While we have determined the goals for OPUS, there are still a great many decisions to make. We want to hear from you and we want your involvement. OPUS is going to serve a number of groups: experiencers; professionals; research groups; students; etc. Your ideas and participation will make it possible to make this work.
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But
What Else Can It Be?
TALES OF GIANT SNAKES
by Hugh H. Trotti
It has been said that Theodore Roosevelt doubted the existence of any snake more than ten feet long, and had offered a reward for any such. This may have been in his youth, or with reference to the United States only, for his book of African adventures on safari contains a photograph of an African python that did exceed the ten-foot length. The heaviest snake in the world is the anaconda-not so long as some pythons, but built on the 'stocky' side. When I was a lad, the longest version was said to be an asiatic rock python of some 42 feet in length. But tales of tremendous serpents are extant. Some are hardly believable, and are doubtless untrue. But what of the "evidence"? Most evidence stems from reported tales of various eyewitness events. Many times the tale-teller is truthful insofar as he/she really believes what is reported. We all are aware that the eye may be mistaken, and that "eyewitness testimony" is fraught with difficulty quite often. And doubtless many times tall tales and hoaxes may be sources for wild reports.
Even the ancients had their share of serpentine wonders: it was said that Augustus, emperor of Rome after Julius Caesar, had imported a tremendous snake that measured "nearly ninety feet long." Rome's leaders often imported exotic animals to show for entertainment. The Byzantines were said to possess a manuscript of Homer written on the intestine of a great serpent of 120 foot length, that

unfortunately burnt in one of history's frequent city fires.[2]

Bernard Heuvelmans, the founder of Cryptozoology, has an interesting section on the anaconda in his On the Track of Unknown Animals,[3] in which some interesting facts emerge. In addition to the possibility of hitherto unknown giant serpents existing, we learn that it is possible to stretch a snake's skin somewhat more than 25% past its proper living length.4

The intestines may be even more elastic. There I was a tale of the young Leonardo da Vinci once affixing some sheep or goat innards to an air pump and actually filling a room with the resulting huge bubble. In any case, it is reasonable enough that such intestines could be stretched even more than the exterior skin, thus producing "evidence" of giantism that might seem convincing to those unaware of how it may have been accomplished.

There are also ways to allow the camera to seem to record sizes even larger than what really exists. Obviously, one can place an “enlargeable" object nearer the camera itself, with a person well in the background. To make this "enlarging" effect even greater, one can place the camera low-almost on ground level--and photograph a normal-sized python or anaconda in the foreground with a person visible over its back in the background; in that manner the snake should seem much larger than it really is.

It would not be surprising for a great snake to exceed 42 feet in length, but-given the facts of stretching and otherwise hoaxing the evidence-we need to be careful about what sort of evidence is offered.

REFERENCES

Suetonius (tr. by Robert Graves), The Twelve Caesars, New York: Penguin, 1987 paperback, p. 79.

2 Gibbon, Edward, Deadline and Fall of the Roman Empire, New York: Modern Library, Vol. III, n. 104, p. 296.

3 Heuvelmans, Bernard (tr. and abridged by Richard Garnett), Cambridge: MIT Press, 1972 paperback, pp. 165-170.

* Ibid, p. 167.

MEANING IN ANCIENT CUSTOM AND LEGEND: WHAT BROUGHT THE GHOSTS OF HALLOWEEN?

by Hugh H. Trotti

Sometimes the juxtaposition of two disparate facts, ideas, or sources may clarify a third thing which had heretofore been a puzzling enigma. The

Irish gathering of ghosts upon the ancient Samhain festival is such a mystery, though other peoples (such as the Romans), also believed in similar phenomena. Why did the "hallowed" eve-still called Hallowe'en in modern North America interest ghosts in large numbers? To find their great attraction for this celebration it is necessary to consider what is known or believed about the Pre-Christian nature of the Irish celebration, although such scrutiny may produce unpleasant information of a darksome and prehistoric nature.

The noted scholar T.G.E. Powell wrote that Samhain, in addition to being the chief Irish Celtic festival (Powell, p. 144), marked the end of one year and the start of the next (ibid.). And its

"... relation to the natural seasons shows it clearly to have been the turning-point in a pastoralist rather than an agrarian cycle."

While the spirits of the dead and any other nature spirits need not have been interested in festivities as such, or ones that celebrated harvests or turning points in a year, there was evidently something about the nature of Samhain that was a greater attraction for those entities. What could it have been?

Powell continued his description of Samhain in the following fashion:

"It corresponds to the end of the grazing season when under primitive conditions the herds and flocks were brought together, and only those animals required for breeding were spared from slaughter. This was, of course, an age-old practice going back in temperate Europe to the Neolithic farmers, and imbued with immemorial custom no less than in providing the opportunity for unlimited feasting." (pp. 144-5.)

The mythic residues from ancient Samhain seem to have concerned fertility of the earth and of the tribe, and this may be personified in the rites of union of the tribal deity and a goddess of the land (p. 146). Those aspects might appear to indicate some agricultural influences, and such may have touched and affected pastoral customs and festivities. But it is the specifically pastoral nature of celebration that may shed light upon the reason for troops of ghosts and great magic being abroad during Samhain.

Ancient calendars for such festivals as Samhain were apparently lunar calendars, and counted nights

instead of days (p. 149). The special time of most ghostly activity is the dark; ghosts are more terrifying at night, of course.

But why should the slaughter of flocks or herds attract hordes of ghosts? Consider the ancient Greek literature of Homer. The Odyssey, (Book X, Lines 490-540), contains a lengthy description of a ritual to be performed by the hero in following ritual directions from Circe in order to question the spirits of the dead, which he subsequently carried out in Book XI. In Lines 11-41 the ritual was performed in which, after invoking the dead, the expected spirits were offered first drinks of water, milk and honey, covered with barley; but then sheep were killed whose blood filled a shallow pit-and it was this fluid that the ghosts of the dead were most anxious to drink:

"... I took the sheep and cut their
throats over the pit, and the dark-
clouding blood ran in, and the souls
of the perished dead gathered to the
place, up out of Erebos,
Odyssey, Book XI, Lines 35-38,
(Lattimore, p. 169).

Clearly, it was the blood of the sacrificial animal that attracted spirits of the dead. They were anxious to drink the fluid for reasons not completely clear. Since being drained of blood results in death, perhaps ghosts/spirits were thought to regain a partial

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life by the drinking of it.

Red, the color of blood, was anciently important both to Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon paleolithic tribes. Bodies were buried covered with red ochre. Caves were painted with red ochre. It may be that this color represented life or rejuvenation or fecundity to very ancient peoples. Even today our entertainment media describes dead/undead monsters that lust for blood: the imaginary vampires.

While it is true that the Greeks were some distance from Ireland, the northern peoples which gave rise to the Celts, or who were related peoples, were found not far to the north of the Greeks. Many of their beliefs must have been widespread among them and kindred peoples, and may have been even more widely shared since the conservative paleolithic

ages. Or some beliefs may have entered the Celtic domain through influence of Greco-Roman culture. The Greek Medea played a trick of revenge by cutting up children and boiling them in a magical "rejuvenating" cauldron; the Celts of Ireland were famous for their belief that their deities possessed such cauldrons (Powell, pp. 150, 153). And, of course, the Irish and British Celts had close contact with Rome and Roman versions of Greek culture, as pointed out by the noted British scholar Miranda Green more than once. There are tales of an Irish cauldron which could revive the dead, in addition to the stories of one like a comucopia that could pour forth an inexhaustible stream of provisions. (On the famous Gundestrup cauldron there is a depiction of person being held upside-down
cauldron-being revived from death?
killed as a human sacrifice?)
a
over a
Or being
Another theme common to the Celtic and Greco-Roman worlds was the tale of the "shape-changer pursuit". The Greeks had it that the goddess Nemesis changed shape repeatedly to avoid the attentions of Zeus, and Zeus also changed shape in pursuit to achieve his purpose; the tale the Celts told may have involved different entities, but the theme was the same (if memory serves, it is also found in the Kalevala). As Homer was something like a "bible" for some thousand years, it is difficult to believe that the Irish were ignorant of The Odyssey sacrifice portrayal, whether "blood-magnet" beliefs existed in Ireland or not. And the themes common to Greco-Roman and Celtic cultures support at least some overlap in similar beliefs. Thus there existed similarities of views about certain things that these ancient peoples from different areas held, despite their different cultures. Whether derived from a common ancestry (as in the archaeologist Renfrew's theoretical spread of farming out of Asia Minor), or derived from the Greco-Roman world, these shared common themes in Celtic and Greco-Roman cultures seem to raise the possibility of solving the puzzle of "ghosts gathering at Samhain".

With such a solution in mind, it may he worthwhile to bring together references to seemingly different things (such as Homer's description of ghost attraction and Powell's analysis of a "pastoral" Samhain), place them together, and determine if such augmentation can deliver insights about ancient mind-set. The answer to the ghostly multitude's

interest in the specific Samhain celebration would seem to be that they were thought to be attracted by the butchering
from
that blood
herds/flocks-and were thought to gather in the subsequent evening and night, irresistibly drawn by hopes of partaking of it. The intent to perform a blood sacrifice is not required-it is the result of normal animal husbandry that may have drawn the ghosts.
all
of
We have some indications in Celtic lore of spirits/entities transforming into birds and being present at battlefields. Were they drawn to the blood? Birds would not hesitate to eat unburied dead. And some scholars believe that early peoples laid their dead out to be "de-fleshed" before depositing the bones In a sacred place. If so, such may even support the hypothesis put forward above involving Irish ghosts/spirits and blood.

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